

am aware of and each year the property tax situation deteriorates and each year we get further behind in finding solutions to it. We now have a new and very heavily seriously compounded problem with the Holiday Inn decision. Senator Labedz and others would tell you, quite properly so, as Senator Wesely did, that they are going to study this this summer. We are talking about the Constitution of the state and, therefore, the next opportunity you are going to have to address these very serious problems that probably can only be addressed in the Constitution is about a three year delay until the next gubernatorial elections. I do not think you have any longer that luxury of another couple of years of waiting. Remember, this does simply two things. First of all, it says you will continue to value farmland the same way you already have been. Contrary to what Senator Higgins said, it has nothing to do with trucks or anything else. That is language already in the Constitution she was reading. You would continue to do what you are already doing on agricultural land. With respect to other property, you would have a property tax limitation of one and a half percent. The next thing you are going to say is, well, that is going to force the Legislature to do something, and my answer is, yes, absolutely. In 1985 if this were to pass on the ballot, the Legislature would have to address the issue of our tax structure. That is what it would force. Now how we would do it, I don't know. That is the time to have your studies if it passes on the ballot. That is the time to have your solutions. This simply brings the issue to a head and forces the solution. I will submit to you that if this fails, and I full well realize there are probably not 30 votes for it because we want to duck the issue, but if it fails, there will be this identical proposal without the agricultural thing, it will be on the ballot in one form or another, and you may not have the flexibility that this proposal provides whereby the Legislature, whereby the Legislature if they determine it is absolutely necessary can actually override the one and a half percent. You may not have that flexibility and it will get on the ballot. The people who are paying these excessive property taxes are not going to wait any more just like they did not wait when the Legislatures in past years failed to address issues such as family farms or whatever.